

11 June 2024

Information Rights & Compliance Team  
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Our Ref: FOI/05212

Thank you for your request concerning opiates prescribed and fit notes issued.

Your request has been considered and processed in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

**1. Numbers of patients prescribed opiates by year between 2000 to 2024.**

We are unable to provide the number of service users prescribed opiates over the past 24 years as this information is not held in a reportable manner<sup>1</sup>.

In order to provide this information we would need to manually read through thousands of service users records which would invoke S12 - cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit.

In addition, we do not believe reading through individuals medical records for the purpose of a FOI request would be in line with the GDPR Data Protection Principles or the Caldicott Principles.

**2. Number of fit notes issued between 2000 and 2024.**

Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust is a provider of mental health and specialist learning disability services. Occasionally we would issue a fit note but these are generally issued by GPs. Again, we are unable to provide the number of fit notes issued between 2002 and 2024 as this is not held in a reportable manner.

Should you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please find enclosed an information sheet regarding copyright protection and the Trust's complaints procedure in the event that you are not satisfied with the response.

Yours sincerely

*Sue Smith*

**Sue Smith**  
**Information Rights Officer**

Enc: Copyright Protection and Complaints Procedure Information Leaflet.

If you would like to complete a short survey in relation to your Freedom of Information request please scan the QR code below or click [here](#).



<sup>1</sup> Section 12 - Cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit